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Four AFRL scientists net Presidential Rank Awards

by Nahaku McFadden, Air Force Office of Scientific Research and AFMC News Service

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio

— Four Air Force Research Laboratory people were awarded 2003 Presidential Rank Awards April 21, putting them in the top 5 percent of senior civilian executives in all of government.

Each year the President of the United States recognizes and celebrates a small group of career senior executives' long-term accomplishments with this award. The selectees were each nominated by the head of their respective agency.

Nominees were Dr. Robert Fugate, Dr. William Baker, Dr. Herbert Carlson Jr., and Dr. Alan Garscadden.

A board of private citizens evaluated the nominees based on their leadership and noted results. President George W. Bush approved the final list.

There are two categories of rank awards: distinguished and meritorious. The distinguished rank is limited to 1 percent of the career senior executive service, defense intelligence SES, scientific and professional and senior level civilians government-wide. The meritorious executive award is limited to 5 percent of that population.

Dr. Fugate, Directed Energy Directorate's senior scientist for atmospheric compensation, was nominated in the Distinguished Senior Professional category for his research efforts that have enabled revolutionary new military and scientific applications of lasers and optical systems in and through the atmosphere. His research was a key factor in the decision to initiate the Airborne Laser theater missile defense weapon system program. The technologies he has demonstrated enable the use of ground-based lasers as anti-satellite weapons, and the ability to transfer data between satellites or reconnaissance aircraft and stations on the ground at rates of hundreds of gigabits per second. Dr. Fugate's research also has given warfighters the ability to inspect earth orbiting satellites from the ground with unprecedented resolution to maintain an awareness of U.S. military, scientific and commercial space assets as well as the intentions, capabilities and situations of foreign satellites.

Dr. Baker, the Directed Energy Directorate chief scientist, was nominated in the Meritorious Senior Professional category for 33 years of unparalleled achievement in advanced weapons tech-



Four Air Force Research Laboratory scientists received U.S. Air Force Presidential Rank Awards in ceremonies April 21, at Arlington Cemetery, Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. Award winners from left are, Dr. Herbert Carlson Jr., Dr. Robert Fugate, Dr. William Baker and Dr. Alan Garscadden. (Air Force photo by Nahaku McFadden)

nology. Dr. Baker created revolutionary technologies that will make speed of light weapons a reality in the near term and maintain the United States' military technological superiority well into the new millennium, according to the award citation.

Dr. Carlson, the Chief Scientist for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, earned the prestigious honor in the Meritorious Senior Professional category. He was recognized for his leadership role in defining the science and technology programs critical to the Air Force of 2020 in a report to Congress. The resulting visionary document, approved by the Secretary of Defense and Congress, provided six fundamental definitions of Air Force long-term challenges. Congress praised the report for its articulate and creative content. As an added endorsement, they wrote into law that this process be repeated every four to five years.

Dr. Garscadden, AFRL Propulsion Directorate's chief scientist, was nominated for the rank of Meritorious Senior Professional in recognition of his exceptional leadership, innova-

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tion, dedicated research, as well as his research in highly energized flows and applying the results to diverse Air Force weapon systems. Dr. Garscadden is renowned for his work in theoretical and experimental research in nonequilibrium plasmas and energized gas flows, lasers, laser-based processing of thin films, optical and mass spectroscopic measurements, and electron impact cross sections and their influence on electron transport data enabling significant advances in plasma technology.

Award officials said those winning this prestigious award are strong leaders, professionals and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service.

Distinguished rank recipients receive a lump-sum payment of 35 percent of their base pay; meritorious rank recipients receive 20 percent of their base pay. All recipients receive a framed certificate signed by the president. @